



## RESOLUTION

---

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH AN UPDATE ON CURRENT CITY ORDINANCES, RULES, AND POLICIES REGARDING ON- AND OFF-LEASH DOG PARKS, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AREAS IN WHICH APPLICABLE CITY POLICIES SHOULD BE UPDATED AND ON ITS PLANS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL DOG PARKS IN HONOLULU'S URBAN CORE.

WHEREAS, Section 10-1.7(b) of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990 ("ROH") authorizes the Director of Parks and Recreation ("Director") to designate areas in public parks for use by persons having custody and control of dogs on a leash; and

WHEREAS, ROH Section 10-1.7(b) also authorizes the Director to designate public parks for use as off-leash parks for dogs; and

WHEREAS, in making the above designations, the Director is to consider a park's size, location, and frequency of use by members of the public, as well as the primary actual or designed use of each park or area included in the designation; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation ("Department") lists a few dozen designated on-leash parks and five designated off-leash parks on its website, along with a handful of other parks for which permits may be sought to conduct dog shows, dog obedience classes, and dog trials pursuant to Section 19-5-4 of the Department's "Rules Governing Dogs in Public Parks"; and

WHEREAS, dog parks, and off-leash dog parks in particular, provide a multitude of benefits to dogs, their guardians, and the community as a whole, including physical exercise, socialization, behavioral improvements, and promotion of responsible dog ownership; and

WHEREAS, in a 2018 survey of the 100 largest cities in the United States sponsored by The Trust for Public Land, Honolulu ranked 84<sup>th</sup> in off-leash dog parks per capita, with 0.4 off-leash dog parks per 100,000 residents, as compared to top 10 cities such as Portland, Oregon; Las Vegas, Nevada; and San Francisco, California; that register a rate of 3.5 or more off-leash dog parks per 100,000 residents; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of off-leash dog parks on Oahu is felt most acutely in urban Honolulu, which has the highest concentration of dog owners living in apartments and condominiums, which limit active dogs' opportunities for exercise and socialization; and



---

## RESOLUTION

---

WHEREAS, residents of these urban communities have initiated efforts to establish off-leash dog parks at a number of urban core locations, including Mother Waldron Neighborhood Park, Makiki District Park, Aala Park, and the grounds of the Frank F. Fasi Civic Center, but have encountered obstacles; and

WHEREAS, the City Council ("Council") appropriated \$150,000 in the Fiscal Year 2018 Executive Capital Budget for the planning and designing of a fenced dog park in Downtown Honolulu-Kakaako, a project which, as of June 30, 2018, was still being reviewed by the City Administration; and

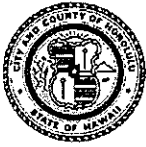
WHEREAS, City residents have been frustrated by the lack of responsiveness to their concerted efforts and by the seemingly arbitrary process by which on- and off-leash dog park designations are made, often without public review or opportunity for comment; and

WHEREAS, for example, the draft Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") released in June 2018 for improvements to Ala Moana Regional Park and Magic Island proposes a dog park near Kewalo Basin, despite there being no prior mention of the topic in the EIS notice and few indications that the public had called for it; and

WHEREAS, this type of proposal, which would otherwise not have received public participation or feedback, gives the residents the impression that the City's process for the establishment of community dog parks does not take into consideration the experiences of dog owners in the affected communities; and

WHEREAS, moreover, the City's existing inventory of on-leash dog parks has been inadequately maintained, and especially within the urban core, has become unsafe and unsanitary due to homeless encampments, and dog owners are understandably reluctant to bring their pets to parks like Kamamalu Neighborhood Park, Mother Waldron Neighborhood Park, and Thomas Square Park; and

WHEREAS, partnerships between community groups and City and State parks agencies could activate these areas and help City residents reclaim them for their intended uses; and



---

## RESOLUTION

---

WHEREAS, in another threat to existing on-leash dog parks in the City, the proposed transfer of Kakaako Waterfront Park (TMK: 2-1-060-008 & 2-1-060-029), Kakaako Gateway Mauka Park (TMK: 1-2-1-059-026, 1-2-1-059-025, 1-2-1-059-024 & 1-2-1-059-023), Kakaako Gateway Makai Park (TMK: 2-1-060-007), and Kewalo Basin Park (TMK: 2-1-058-137) (collectively, the "Kakaako Makai Parks"), from the Hawaii Community Development Authority ("HCDA") to the City appears to have introduced or to be introducing new restrictions on areas and activities long enjoyed by area dog owners; and

WHEREAS, under Section 15-210-14 of the Hawaii Administrative Rules, HCDA's "Rules, Regulations, Charges, and Fees for Parks," parks users were allowed to bring on-leash dogs into the Kakaako Makai Parks, subject to certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, following the execution of a Right of Entry agreement with the HCDA in April 2018, the City posted signs in the Kakaako Makai Parks imposing a prohibition on animals, a prohibition that will apply to dogs unless and until the parks are designated as on-leash dog parks by the Director; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that there is an urgent need for a Council review of dog park-related policies and projects that would also include an opportunity for community feedback on the above issues concerning dog parks; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it requests the Department of Parks and Recreation to provide the Council with an update on current City ordinances, rules, and policies regarding on- and off-leash dog parks, including recommendations for areas in which applicable City policies should be updated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Parks and Recreation shall also include in its overview to the Council a status update on the number of new on- and off-leash dog parks established in Honolulu's urban core between 2008 and 2018 and the number being considered for establishment within the urban core in the near future; and



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 18-180

---

## RESOLUTION

---

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Chair of the Board of Parks and Recreation, and the Chair of the Committee on Parks, Community & Customer Services.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Carol Johnson*  
*Ann Kobayashi*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

**AUG 15 2018**

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers